

**ABSTRACT****MACHINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF BEVERAGES**

5       A closure mechanism for a beverage preparation machine  
comprising a fixed lower part, an upper part rotatable  
relative to the lower part and a cartridge holder interposed  
between the lower part and the upper part and being  
rotatable relative to the lower part and the upper part,  
10 wherein the lower part comprises inlet piercing means and  
outlet piercing means for forming, respectively, an inlet  
and an outlet, in use, in a cartridge received in the  
cartridge holder, wherein rotation of the upper part towards  
the lower part causes the upper part to engage the cartridge  
15 holder and to move the cartridge holder into contact with  
the lower part and at the same time to cause, in use, the  
inlet piercing means and the outlet piercing means to pierce  
a cartridge received in the cartridge holder.